



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Take the Test, Take Control”

June 27, 2011: National HIV Testing Day

Interactive map shows HIV impact and testing sites

BALTIMORE, MD (June 23, 2011) –The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (IDEHA) will observe National HIV Testing Day on Monday June 27th. Activities include promoting access to HIV counseling, testing and referral (CTR) services in partnership with approximately 70 health care providers, and community based organizations.

“We must make sure that every Marylander understands that early diagnosis, testing and counseling are essential to appropriate care and treatment for HIV/AIDS,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “By educating ourselves and our neighbors, together, we can erase the stigma and encourage prevention.”

Thirty years ago, the June 5, 1981 issue of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* announced that five young men were treated for biopsy confirmed *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia at three different hospitals in Los Angeles, California. This was the beginning of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The latest data from CDC shows that those first five cases have increased to more than 1.1 million Americans living with HIV.

In 1985, there were 768 Marylanders living with HIV. In 1995, the number of people with HIV rose to 11,739. As of 2009, there are 29,080 people living with HIV in Maryland. There are an estimated 6,000 - 9,000 additional people living with HIV who have HIV and don’t know it.

“We have recently added an interactive map to our website that shows HIV testing locations and the HIV burden throughout the state,” said Heather Hauck, Director of IDEHA. “This information can be used to help people learn about the impact of HIV in Maryland and where to go to get tested.”

Maryland’s HIV Mapping Tool, located at <http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/apps/hiv>,

displays rates of living HIV cases by jurisdiction (counties and Baltimore City), and the location of local HIV testing sites that are marked on the map with green crosses.

All Marylanders are encouraged to talk about HIV, get tested for HIV at least once a year, and access care and treatment for HIV, so that they can live longer and healthier lives.

For more information about National HIV Testing Day, contact IDEHA at 410-767-5252 or visit <http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/>. For more data and information about the HIV epidemic in Maryland, please visit the Center for HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology website at: <http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/chse>

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